

Reading 2- Module 1

A differentiated model of giftedness and talent

What is the concept proposed by the author?

Gagne proposes that there is a difference between a gift and a talent.

A gift is what one possesses and individual is placed in the top ten percent of his or her peer group.

A talent is a 'mastery' of this gift. Talents emerge from the development of one's gift.

Which group of students may be excluded from standard testing?

Children that may be at risk of being excluded from standard testing are those that have 'slipped through the net' or lack motivation to learn. These children on a day to day basis in a class may not appear able or interested. Therefore identifying their abilities may be clouded because of a teacher's judgment based upon the child's performance or motivation. Children with other learning differences may also be excluded because there may be more of a focus on their disability. Children that appear over excited or hyper active may also be misunderstood therefore the child's excitement can be interpreted by a teacher.

Which other identification method may overcome this inequality?

One possible method is to talk to the parents and find out about their experiences at school and how they learned best. Gather information about the child's early development, how old they were when they took their first step, spoke etc.

Compare the children's skills to your normal end of year assessment profiles.

Invite another colleague to observe this child and discuss and compare observations.

What identification methods are appropriate for your school and why?

Parent interviews:

In an early years setting the parents can give the teacher an invaluable insight to the child's development, likes and dislikes and strengths and weaknesses.

Assessment sheets:

In the Early Years department we use an assessment sheet that is scaled from one to nine in relation to six areas of development: Personal, social and emotional, Communication Language and Literacy, Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy, Knowledge and understanding of the world, Physical development and Creative development. Observing where the child is on this scale is a good indicator of how the child compares to his/her peers.